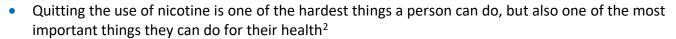


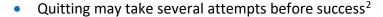
# Nicotine Fact Sheet

# **Tobacco Control Program • January 2020**

### **Overview**

- Nicotine is the highly addictive chemical found naturally in tobacco
- Most tobacco users become addicted to nicotine<sup>1</sup>
- Tobacco use is the single largest cause of death and disease in America<sup>2</sup>
- Nicotine poses danger to youth, pregnant women and fetuses<sup>3</sup>
- Nicotine use in adolescence may increase risk for future addiction to other drugs<sup>4</sup>



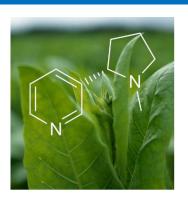


# **ENDS\*** and Nicotine Levels

- A CDC study of 2015 scan sales data from stores found that 99% of ENDS sold contained nicotine<sup>5</sup>
- The amount of nicotine in ENDS is highly variable due to the e-liquid, the temperature of heating, and the depth of the puff
- Although most e-liquids on the market previously contained 36 mg/ml or less, new products utilizing nicotine salts instead of freebase nicotine have increased the level of nicotine
  - o JUUL Pods (.7 ml cartridge labeled 5%) contain 59 mgs of nicotine per ml<sup>6</sup>
    - Juul was introduced to the market in 2015 and rose to over 70% of the market
    - The majority of youth and young adult Juul users surveyed did not know they contained nicotine<sup>7</sup>

\* ENDS= Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and vapor products, also referred to as vaping, e-cigarettes WARNING: This product contains nicotine.

Nicotine is an addictive chemical.



# **Key Points:**

- Nicotine is very addictive
- Most ENDS devices contain nicotine, with varying levels
- Youth are especially vulnerable to becoming addicted quickly
- Quitting nicotine addiction is hard but evidence-based treatments work



#### **Nicotine and Youth**

- Liquid nicotine is toxic and exposure to high doses can be fatal especially to young children
- Intentional or accidental exposure to liquid nicotine via ingestion, inhalation or absorption through the skin or eyes can have adverse health effects<sup>2</sup>
- Children and adolescents are likely more sensitive to nicotine and become addicted faster than adults<sup>3</sup>
- Nicotine disrupts the development of brain circuits that control attention and learning

## **Nicotine Pathway**

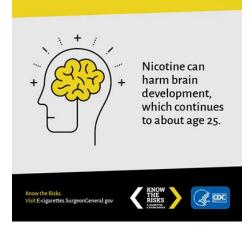
- It only takes 10 seconds for the nicotine from a puff to reach the brain
- Nicotine causes cells in the brain to release dopamine, which triggers a 'pleasure response'
- The number of nicotine receptors increases over time, changing the anatomy of the brain
- The brain keeps wanting more
- Quitting triggers withdrawal symptoms that makes the brain crave nicotine
- As nicotine intake is reduced, the number of nicotine receptors goes back to normal

Nicotine can affect the body in other ways. For example, a rapid increase in nicotine blood levels can raise the heart rate and blood pressure and narrow arteries around the heart.

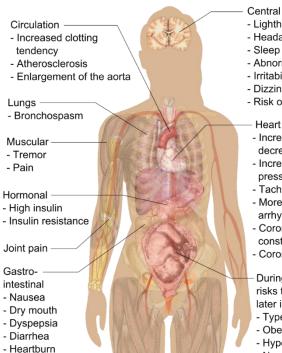
#### **Nicotine Withdrawal**

#### Symptoms include:

- Feeling anxious, fidgety and restless
- Trouble sleeping
- Trouble concentrating, thinking
- Crave tobacco products
- Feeling hungrier than usual



# Side effects of nicotine



- Lightheadedness

- Headache

- Sleep disturbances

- Abnormal dreams

- Irritability

- Dizziness

- Risk of blood restriction

- Increased or decreased heart rate

- Increased blood pressure.

- Tachycardia

- More (or less) arrhythmias

- Coronary artery constriction

- Coronary artery disease

During pregnancy, risks to child later in life

- Type 2 diabetes

- Obesity

- Hypertension

- Neurobehavioral defects

- Respiratory dysfunction

- Infertility

Graphic Courtesy of TobaccoFree Life, CA. 2019

- Peptic ulcer

- Cancer

#### **NICOTINE • January 2020 • Page 3**

#### References

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health, National Institute of Drug Abuse. *Tobacco, Nicotine, and E-Cigarettes.* https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/tobacco-nicotine-e-cigarettes/nicotine-addictive

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Smoking Cessation. A Report of the Surgeon General.* Atlanta, GA. 2020.

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General.* Atlanta, GA. 2014.

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General.* Atlanta, GA. 2016.

<sup>5</sup>Marynak, etal. American Journal of Public Health. *Sales of Nicotine-Containing Electronic Cigarette Products:* United States, 2015. May 2017;107(5):702-705. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2017.303660

<sup>6</sup>Juul Labs, information available via www.juul.com. Accessed January 2020.

<sup>7</sup>Willett, etal. Journal of Tobacco Control. *Recognition, use and perceptions of JUUL among youth and young adults.* Vol 28, No. 1 January 2019.

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